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TRIBUTE TO DR. NEVILLE A.
PARKER, Ph.D.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, as our nation celebrates Black History Month and its theme "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas," it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Dr. Neville A. Parker, Ph.D., an African-American who has devoted himself to the advancement of science and to broadening the participation of under-represented minorities in the fields of mathematics, technology and engineering. Dr. Parker enjoys a distinguished career in international transportation and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to professionals in developing countries.

Dr. Parker's academic training in engineering began in 1965, when he received a B.E. in Civil Engineering from the City University of New York. He later received an M.E. in Transportation Engineering and a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Cornell University in 1966 and 1971, respectively. Dr. Parker is a Registered Professional Engineer in both the United States and the United Republic of Tanzania.

After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Parker began his illustrious professional career by teaching Civil Engineering at Howard University. He remained in this post until 1979, the last three years of which he spent at the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania as a Senior Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Parker's talents and leadership were immediately recognized, and soon after arriving he became the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Parker's work on engineering capacity building in Tanzania and East and South Africa began with the delivery of a keynote address at the Sixth Pan-African Conference in 1974. Over the subsequent twelve years, Dr. Parker founded and coordinated several highly regarded professional associations, and authored policy documents, studies, and proposals that drew much needed funding to Africa and transformed the field.

In 1989, Dr. Parker returned to the City College of New York as the Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Civil Engineering and the Director of the City University of New York (CUNY) Institute for Transportation Systems. In this capacity, Dr. Parker set the bar for innovative work with professionals in developing countries through the implementation of training programs and collaborations. From 1987 to 1998, Dr. Parker served as Chief Coordinator for the International Road Federation's annual Executive Conferences on Road Asset Management, attracting over three hundred executive level transportation professionals from more than sixty countries across the globe.

Dr. Parker is widely published in international journals and is the co-author of a foundational textbook on highway engineering challenges in Africa. His multiple leadership roles in national and international professional associations are a testament to the respect that so many of Dr. Parker's peers have for him.

Notwithstanding a demanding travel and research schedule, Dr. Parker has retained a steadfast commitment to the education of CUNY students. His transportation infrastructure management courses and supervision of Masters projects and doctoral dissertations are creating a new generation of scholars and practitioners that, following in Dr. Parker's footsteps, will make their own unique contributions for the betterment of our society. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Parker has worked tirelessly to increase minority participation in the sciences. He was Project Director of the Research Careers for Minority Scholars program at City College from 1989–1997 and is the current Director of the New York City Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program.

Dr. Parker has admirably extended his expertise, resources, and commitment to a myriad of efforts to improve his local Harlem community. A vital member of the Manhattan Borough President Office's Go Green East Harlem Steering Committee, Dr. Parker is currently developing a simulation model to evaluate the public health impacts of transportation, particularly truck and bus operations, in a larger effort to improve air quality. He previously served as the Co-Chair of the Transportation and Economic Development Committee for the Empowerment Zone application, and is recognized for his research on public empowerment in transportation decision-making processes.

Well-respected among his peers, Dr. Parker has received numerous awards including: the Black Engineer of the Year—Outstanding Educator Award (1994); the Giant in Science Award (1996); and the Outstanding Achievement in Education Award (2003). He was recognized in 2006 as one of the top 25 African Americans in education, science and medicine by New York's Who's Who.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Parker is a role model and an inspiration to us all. His passion for the progress of science and his commitment to expanding opportunities in this field to under-represented communities is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Neville A. Parker.

SHARING THE CARIBBEAN'S APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the optimism of the Caribbean people in response to the historic inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20th, 2009. The New York CARIB News has deemed the 44th presidency "a watershed, a significant departure from where we once were as a nation." What a great feeling it is to know that when Mr. Obama put his hand on the Bible used by Lincoln to vow to uphold the nation's constitution, it was well received by people of the Caribbean and around the world. I share the sentiment expressed by the reporters of New York CARIB that it was a moment to savor. A news article in the publication titled, "U.S./Caribbean-Relations: On the Verge of a new Chapter in America and World History," makes the case.

[From the New York CARIB News, Jan. 20, 2009]

ON THE VERGE OF A NEW CHAPTER IN AMERICA AND WORLD HISTORY

As a soldier in the civil rights movement of almost half a century ago, a person on the front line of the battle for equality has lived through and has helped to break down the barriers that have opened the flood gates to next week's historic event.

Naturally, John Lewis, a Congressman from Georgia and a sharecropper's son who shared the stage of the "March on Washington" in 1963 with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., quite clearly understands the monumental significance of the official swearing in Washington on January 20th, the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama as the 44th President of the United States and the nation's first Black Commander-in-Chief. It has been a long time in coming. The road to the inauguration was soaked in the blood, sweat, and tears of millions, both Black and white, who like John Lewis, Marcus Garvey, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Roger Wilkins, and a long list of thousands of major iconic figures in American history, had a vision of what was possible in a country in which race was at the core of public policy.

"Without the Emancipation Proclamation, the sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the march on Washington, there may not be a Barack Obama," was the way John Lewis summed up the set of building blocks, which have placed us on the cusp of a new chapter in America's history. It signals the promise of more than a new way of thinking but a fresh and inclusive approach to decision-making in a nation whose influence affects almost every corner of the globe.

"It's the pinnacle," said Roger Wilkins, a former university history professor in Washington, as he reflected on the impact of Obama's November 4th victory at the polls. It stands to reason, therefore, that as we look forward to Tuesday's momentous step we cast our minds back to the days when in 1857 the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark Dred Scott case decided that Blacks "had no rights which any white man was bound to respect." Next, it took President Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 to free all slaves in Confederate States.

Just in case, you think we are delving into ancient history to prove a point, just remember that it was about 50 years ago, George Wallace, Alabama's most notorious segregationist Governor, vowed "segregation today . . . segregation forever."

Less than 20 years before that, African American servicemen and women defended this country during the Second World War fighting or serving in segregated units. Who could have imaged back then that we would have lived to see the day when Colin Powell, a Black man with Caribbean family roots, would in less, than 40 years, become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of State and much later the U.S. Secretary of State.

And it was during Obama's lifetime, when he was two years old that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became the law of the land, officially removing the stain of racial prejudice from our lives. It would take decades and scores of legal tests at the highest levels of our state and federal judicial systems to ensure that the Act was accepted by most Americans.

Small wonder, then, that President Bill Clinton once described racism as "America's curse."

That's why when Chief Justice Roberts administers the presidential oath of office and Obama puts his hand on the Bible once used by Lincoln to vow to uphold the nation's

constitution that people everywhere, not simply in the 50 states and in the U.S. territories would fully appreciate how far we have traveled and where the country is heading.

But his mere presence in the White House wouldn't be enough to make the nation what we hope and dreamed it would be: a place where all persons would be judged on their merits and not on the color of their skins.

Undeniably, America is not the same. Obama's election and his inauguration are like a watershed, a significant departure from where we once were as a nation. As a matter of fact, he couldn't have captured the presidency without the support of four of every 10 white voters who cast their ballots for him, alongside the 95 per cent of Blacks and the more than 60 per cent of Hispanics.

On Tuesday, people of all ethnic groups, sizes and shapes, not only in the United States but around the world will savor the moment and thank God, Allah, Jesus, you name the supreme being, that they have lived long enough to see it.

It's a feeling like no other.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I submit the following member requests for the record. These projects were appropriated funds through H.R. 1105, the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Agriculture/Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service/Education & Research

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Georgia

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1464 Perry, GA 31069

Description of request: This bill includes \$346,000 in funding for the Georgia Cotton Commission to continue funding of its CSREES special research grant, which was funded at \$494,000 in FY 2006 and \$371,000 in FY 2008. The special research grant will fund valuable research on cotton insect management in the Southeast, where cotton pests are one of the primary causes of cotton yield loss and quality damage. Investing in this innovative research will help further protect our cotton crops, the environment, and our farmers' investment.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: CJS/DOJ/COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cobb County Government

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 Cherokee Street, Suite 450; Marietta, GA 30090

Description of request: This bill includes \$675,000 for Cobb County, GA to establish an interoperable communications system. Cobb County has been actively working to establish regional interoperability to improve communications and responses to natural or man-made disasters, including threats from terrorism.

Funds for this project will be used to establish microwave connectivity, link systems together and upgrade the radio system's operating platform so that all systems are functioning at the same system level. A wide area network will enable responders from numerous agencies in the metro Atlanta region to coordinate responses and assist with major crises and disasters, both natural and man-made, including small plane crashes, multiple vehicle accidents, chemical spills, tornadoes, and acts of terrorism.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: CJS/DOJ/OJP/Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Inner Harbour

Address of Requesting Entity: 4685 Dorsett Shoals Road; Douglasville, GA 30135

Description of request: This bill includes \$100,000 in funding for the Inner Harbor EXCEL Program. This request will help fund the EXCEL Program which emphasizes experiential education, structured team building and outdoor leadership as the methods by which residents develop self-discipline, communication, and socialization skills. The program reduces present costs to the state for juvenile detention, and its low recidivism rates have the potential to save additional funds that would otherwise be used to incarcerate at risk youth in their adulthood.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: CJS/OJP/Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Center for State Courts

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Newport Avenue; Williamsburg, VA 23185

Description of request: This bill includes \$100,000 for the National Center for State Courts' Knowledge Information Services (KIS). KIS serves as a library and clearinghouse for Congress, federal agencies, and state court constituents, identifying and disseminating best practices on all matters related to court administration and state courts. Funding would help meet increased demand as courts are faced with greater federal requirements. This funding will help with education and technical assistance including education programs (both in-person and via distance learning) will be developed for judges and court personnel as they implement federal policy in areas such as court security, sexual predators and stalkers, child welfare, human trafficking, data exchange and criminal history information sharing, court interpretation, complex litigation. The National Center for State Courts will research and distribute information needed to implement federal policy and respond to major issues currently facing state courts as identified by the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators and other key court personnel such as immigration, terrorism, healthcare, emergency preparedness, global epidemics or pandemics, and court security.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water/Corps of Engineers/Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Atlanta, Georgia

Address of Requesting Entity: 55 Trinity Avenue, SW Atlanta, GA 30303

Description of request: This bill includes \$1,818,000 for Atlanta environmental infrastructure upgrades. This project would improve surface water quality by providing combined sewer capacity relief to capture more storm water and sewage flows that will provide as needed flood relief in the City. The relief system would allow the flow volume, stored on surface streets, to enter the collection system. Excess flow volume would be diverted and captured in a deep tunnel system for later treatment and release. The overall project budget is \$3.9 billion and 100% of these funds federally appropriated would be obligated directly to sewer repair. To date, two different bond initiatives have been put in place—one for \$865 million and one for \$600 million.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water/Corps of Engineers/Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers—Mobile District

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628

Description of request: This bill includes \$6,680,000 for the normal operation and maintenance of the Corps of Engineers' Project at Lake Allatoona. This project includes a dam, hydroelectric powerhouse, gated spillway, reservoir, 27 Corps of Engineers recreation areas and 54 non-federal recreation areas. The lake is an important source of storage for the Atlanta Area's water supply. This is a federally authorized and maintained Corps of Engineers project.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water/Corps of Engineers/Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers—Mobile District

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628

Description of request: This bill includes \$7,150,000 for the normal operation and maintenance of the Corps of Engineers' Project at Carter's Lake. This project includes a dam, hydroelectric powerhouse, gated spillway, reservoir, and recreational areas. This reservoir also serves as a source of storage for North Georgia's water supply. This is a federally authorized and maintained Corps of Engineers project.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water/Corps of Engineers/Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corps of Engineers—Mobile District

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628

Description of request: This bill includes \$3,173,000 for the normal operation and maintenance of the Corps of Engineers' Project on the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee & Flint Rivers. This operation and maintenance project is critical to the interstate water needs of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. This is a federally authorized and maintained Corps of Engineers project.